New probe of JFK slaying asked

AR- 5/6/75 - Page A-4

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three forensic pathologists said Monday the investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy should be reopened so that all the medical evidence can be examined by an independent panel.

Cyril H. Wecht, Allegheny County, Pa., coroner and a longtime critic of the Warren Commission investigation, said the government should release autopsy materials withheld since 1963 when President Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas.

Wecht, who has sought for several years to gain access to the medical evidence, has disputed the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the shooting.

At a news conference, Wecht said the group is asking that an independent panel "just do, from the standpoint of scientific investigation in the JFK case, what any good homicide squad, crime laboratory, etc., is doing hundreds of times each day in the United States of America."

Appearing with Wecht were Dr. Robert Joling, a professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and Herbert L. MacDonnell, professor of criminalistics at Elmira College, Corning, N.Y.

The group criticized the Rockefeller commission investigation of allegations about the Kennedy assassination.

The commission headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller was appointed by President Ford to investigate allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency engaged in illegal domestic activities. It has since extended its mandate to examine other allegations about the CIA including that the agency had a role in the Kennedy shooting.

Wecht noted that David W. Belin, staff director of the Rockefeller commission, also served with the commission headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren when it investigated the Kennedy assassination.